IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter (underlining) and deleted subject matter (strikethrough), as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~implemented on a computer operating system~~ for scheduling registered services <u>in an operating system of a computer with a processor</u>, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) operating a kernel of the computer operating system to cycle through a plurality of ~~stored~~ pre-assigned time slices, at least one <u>of the plurality of pre-assigned time slices</u> ~~slice~~ being assigned to a background thread;

(b) scheduling execution of a service manager on the background thread;

<u>when the background thread executes, the service manager allocates an execution presence and data presence to one or more registered services, wherein the registered services to execute are determined by the service manager executing the steps of:</u>

<u>searching for at least one service manager service wherein the service manager searches for at least one service manager service periodically;</u>

<u>registering found service manager services as one or more registered services;</u>

(c)   ranking the registered services according to priority and resource need;

(d)   <u>scheduling the</u> ~~operating the service manager to schedule a plurality of~~ registered services for execution as by rank, each <u>registered</u> service being scheduled for execution within <u>the background thread's pre-assigned time slice</u> ~~at least one of the pre-assigned time slices~~, whereby the registered services are scheduled for execution independently of any foreground tasks; and

<u>repeating the searching, registering, ranking and scheduling steps periodically</u>.

(e)   ~~allocating an execution presence and data presence to a registered service~~

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the computer ~~operating system~~ comprises a portable electronic device.

4.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein the data presence is an A5-based global variable context.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein at least one <u>of the</u> registered service<u>s</u> is a system-related activity.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein at least one <u>of the</u> registered service<u>s</u> is an interrupt-related activity.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein at least one <u>of the</u> registered service<u>s</u> is a background-related activity.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A method for scheduling services <u>in an</u> ~~on a computer~~ operating system <u>of a computer, the method</u> comprising the steps of:

    ~~a)~~   <u>executing</u> ~~performing~~ a background task <u>of</u> <u>that registers</u> ~~registering~~ at least one registered service in a dedicated pre-assigned time slice, the <u>background</u> task invoked by a kernel of the computer operating system for providing an execution presence and a data presence to the <u>at least one</u> registered service<u>, wherein the background task periodically searches for the at least one registered service associated therewith</u>;

    ~~b)~~   ranking <u>the</u> at least one registered service according to requirements of the registered service; and

c)   allocating the execution presence and the data presence accordingly to the at least one registered services such that the at least one registered services ~~may be~~ are scheduled in a dedicated pre-assigned time slice ~~independently~~ of any foreground task; and

repeating the executing, ranking, and allocating steps periodically.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein the computer ~~operating system~~ is ~~on~~ a portable electronic device.

13.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 10 wherein the data presence is an A5-based global variable context.

14.   (Cancel)

15.   (Cancel)

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus and

a memory unit coupled to the bus having stored therein a computer operating system executed by the processor performing the steps of: ~~for execution by the processor and a~~ ~~background task for execution by the processor, wherein upon execution the background task,~~ ~~the processor performs a method comprising the steps of:~~

a)   registering by a ~~the~~ background task a plurality of registered services, the background task being invoked by a kernel of the computer operating system in a dedicated pre-assigned time slice, ~~the computer operating system operating the background task and a~~ ~~foreground task,~~ the operation of the background task being independent from the operation of ~~the~~ any foreground task, and the background task being operated to provide an execution presence and a data presence to a registered service, wherein the background task periodically searches for at least one registered service associated with the background task;

~~b)~~   ranking the plurality of registered services according to priority and resource needs of each registered service; and

~~c)~~   allocating the execution presence and the data presence accordingly to the plurality of registered services such that the plurality of registered services may be scheduled in the dedicated pre-assigned time slice independently of any foreground task.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein the computer ~~operation~~ system is a portable electronic device.

19.   (Previously Presented) A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein the data presence is an A5-based global variable context.

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein the at least one registered service is a system-related activity.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein the at least one registered service is an interrupt-related activity.

22.   (Currently Amended) A computer system as recited in Claim 16 wherein the at least one registered service is a background-related activity.

23-29. (Canceled)